

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 33, and 34, as set forth below.

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1 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a mounting portion to couple with a first card connector on a circuit board, the mounting
3 portion including a first communication path to route at least one signal line from
4 [[a]] the first card connector on [[a]] the circuit board to a first card connector on
5 the mounting portion; and
6 a routing portion to couple with a second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
7 portion including a communication path, the communication path of the routing
8 portion to route at least one signal line from [[a]] the second card connector on the
9 circuit board to the mounting portion, a second communication path of the
10 mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of the second card connector
11 on the circuit board to a second card connector on the mounting portion.

1 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the mounting portion and the routing
2 portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at
2 least one other routing portion to couple with a third card connector on the circuit board,
3 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to route at least one
4 signal line from [[a]] the third card connector on the circuit board to the mounting
5 portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to route the at least one
6 signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector on the
7 mounting portion.

1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, the routing portion and the at least
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 5. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser for coupling with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser for coupling with the mounting
5 portion.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.

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1 9. (Previously Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a circuit board;
3 a processor disposed on the circuit board;
4 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;
5 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
6 one signal line;
7 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at
8 least one signal line;
9 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
10 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
11 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
12 on the mounting portion; and
13 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
14 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
15 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
16 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
17 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
18 disposed on the mounting portion.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a peripheral card
2 secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card
3 connector on the mounting portion.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, the mounting portion to orient the
2 peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, each of the at least one signal line of
2 the first card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second
3 card connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the mounting portion and the routing
2 portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 14. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
3 one signal line; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, the routing portion and the at least
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 16. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
5 portion.

1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the first card connector on the circuit
2 board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one
3 intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 21. (Previously Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a chassis;
3 a circuit board disposed in the chassis;
4 a processor disposed on the circuit board;
5 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;
6 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
7 one signal line;
8 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at
9 least one signal line;
10 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
11 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
12 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
13 on the mounting portion; and
14 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
15 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
16 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
17 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
18 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
19 disposed on the mounting portion.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a peripheral card
2 secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card
3 connector on the mounting portion.

1 23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, the mounting portion to orient the
2 peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, each of the at least one signal line
2 of the first card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the
3 second card connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT#
4 line.

1 25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the mounting portion and the
2 routing portion comprising a single integrated component.

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1 26. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
3 one signal line; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, the routing portion and the at least
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 28. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
5 portion.

1 29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.

1 32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the first card connector on the
2 circuit board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least
3 one intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 first routing means to couple with a first card connector on a circuit board, the first
3 routing means including a first communication means for routing at least one
4 signal line from [[a]] the first card connector on [[a]] the circuit board to a first
5 card connector disposed on the first routing means; and
6 second routing means to couple with a second card connector on the circuit board, the
7 second routing means including a communication means, the communication
8 means of the second routing means for routing at least one signal line from [[a]]
9 the second card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a second
10 communication means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal
11 line of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
12 disposed on the first routing means.

1 34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a
2 third routing means to couple with a third card connector on the circuit board, the third
3 routing means including a communication means for routing at least one signal line from
4 [[a]] the third card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a third
5 communication means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the
6 third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector disposed on the first
7 routing means.

1 35. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, each of the first and
2 second communication means of the first routing means and the communication means of
3 the second routing means to route one of an electrical signal and an optical signal.

1 36. (Previously Amended) A method comprising:
2 securing a mounting structure to a first card connector on a circuit board;
3 securing a routing structure to a second card connector on the circuit board;
4 routing at least one signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board through a
5 first communication path of the mounting structure to a first card connector on the
6 mounting structure;
7 routing at least one signal line from the second card connector on the circuit board
8 through a communication path of the routing structure to the mounting structure;
9 and
10 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board second card connector through a
11 second communication path of the mounting structure to a second card connector
12 on the mounting structure.

1 37. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 securing a second routing structure in a third card connector on the circuit board;
3 routing at least one signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board through
4 a communication path of the second routing structure to the mounting structure;
5 and
6 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board third card connector through a third
7 communication path of the mounting structure to a third card connector on the
8 mounting structure.

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1 38. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the first card connector on the circuit
3 board to the first card connector on the mounting structure; and
4 routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the second card connector on the
5 circuit board to the second card connector on the mounting structure.

1 39. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising securing a
2 peripheral card in one of the first card connector on the mounting structure and the
3 second card connector on the mounting structure.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1 46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
2 a circuit board;
3 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
4 extending therefrom;
5 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
6 extending therefrom;
7 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
8 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
9 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
10 on the mounting portion; and
11 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
12 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
13 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
14 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
15 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
16 disposed on the mounting portion.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a
2 peripheral card secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the
3 second card connector on the mounting portion.

1 48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, the mounting portion to
2 orient the peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the mounting portion
2 and the routing portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
3 extending therefrom; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, the routing portion and
2 the at least one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
5 portion.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser and the
2 second riser comprising a single part.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser oriented
2 substantially transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially
3 parallel to the circuit board.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion
2 comprising a flexible cable.

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1 56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the first card connector
2 on the circuit board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at
3 least one intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an optical path.
